

Fort Clarke Middle School Band



Handbook 2019-2020

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Please join us for our monthly parent meetings held at 7:00 PM in the band room: 9/5, 10/8, 11/7, 1/28, 2/25, 4/7, 5/7. These meetings are to keep you up to date on all band news and activities!

It's a Great Day to Be the Fort Clarke Band!

Let me take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to the Fort Clarke Band program or to welcome you for the 1st time, whatever may be the case. I am delighted that you have chosen the band experience.

Bands at the Fort

Beginning Band: For students who have never played an instrument and for students who play at the beginning level. This band is composed of primarily 6th and 7th grade students.

Concert Band: For students who have been playing an instrument for at least one year and play at the intermediate level. This band is composed of primarily 7th grade students.

Symphonic Band: For students who have been playing an instrument for at least one year and have demonstrated the ability to play at the advanced level. This band is composed primarily of 8th grade students with some advanced 7th grade students. Symphonic Band is the premier performing component of the FCMS BANDS.

Jazz Band: For students who have been playing an instrument for more than one year and play at the intermediate to advanced level. This band meets before school only and is composed of 7th and 8th graders.

We take **PRIDE** in our CORE VALUES:

- P** - Positive Attitude
- R** - Respect
- I** - Individual Responsibility
- D** - Discipline
- E** - Excellence

P.R.I.D.E.

Means I care. I want to be the best I can be. I want you to be the best you can be.

Positive Attitude - “We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. ” ... And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.”

Charles Swindoll

No matter what has happened outside the Bandroom, a tiff with mom or dad or best friend, a run in with a teacher, or whatever. It all gets left behind in the Fort Clarke Band room. It's always “A Great Day To Be THE FORT CLARKE BAND”

RESPECT - If I respect myself, if I respect others, if I respect the teacher, if I respect the bandroom, if I respect my instrument, there are certain things I won't do. There are words I won't allow to come out of my mouth. There are things I won't put in my mouth or in my body. I will listen with my eyes and my ears. I will treat you as well as I treat myself. I will be considerate and polite. I will not deface the building, I will not steal from you. I will not write on the walls or mistreat the instruments.

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY - It is my responsibility to have my materials and equipment. It is my responsibility to know my music and be prepared for all assessments (tests). It is my responsibility to know when and where I am supposed to be and what I am supposed to wear. It is my responsibility to make sure my instrument is working. It is my responsibility to keep my parents informed of all the above details and to let them know when something is not working properly on my instrument or I have needs for reeds, valve oil, music books etc.

DISCIPLINE - Someone has said “ Do what you have to do now so you can do what you want to do later.” and “ Successful people do the things unsuccessful people won't do.” Someone else said “a person who lives by their feelings will never live a victorious life.” In order for an individual to be the best he or she can be they have to be willing to practice at inconvenient times, be at all rehearsals be at all performances and do what is required without making excuses.

EXCELLENCE - Excellence is not settling for “Good Enough.” It is striving to be the Best one can be. It is paying attention to small details like having shoes polished, the right colored socks, an ironed shirt and pressed pants. It comes from saying “I CARE” If we have Positive Attitudes, Respect, Individual Responsibility and Discipline we will have Excellence.

INSTRUMENTS

Can I get an instrument from the school?

For the most part, students are responsible to provide their own instruments. The school has a few instruments that may be used for a fee. These are mostly the larger more expensive instruments like tubas, Baritones, Bassoons, French Horns, and larger woodwinds. The User/Maintenance fee for school owned instruments is \$100.00 for the school year or \$50.00 per semester. In addition, parents must agree to pay for all repairs that are needed as a result of that student's use.

Where can my child get an instrument if the school does not have one?

Instruments can be found affordably through rental purchase programs at the local music stores like Hoggetown Music at Hunter's Crossing and Music and Arts in Butler Plaza.

How do I know if a brand is a good brand of instrument?

It is important to purchase only well known acceptable brands. **Do not purchase department store instruments. In general don't purchase instruments in a store where you can also purchase toys or underwear.** These instruments are very inconsistent in quality, often have intonation problems and most shops will not work on them. Be careful about unusually low priced no name instruments on the internet. They usually play out of tune and fall into the same category as the department store instruments. Recommended Brands are listed below next to each instrument requirement.

When will my child need to bring his/her instrument to school?

1st Period Symphonic Band:	Tuesday	8/20/19
2nd Period Concert Band:	Tuesday	8/20/19
3rd Period Advanced Percussion:	Tuesday	8/20/19
5th Period Beginning Band:	Tuesday	9/03/19
6th Period Beginning Band:	Monday	9/09/19

BEGINNING BAND MATERIALS NEEDED

All students MUST mark their cases and books with their name and contact information before bringing it to school. Painters tape will work well. A luggage tag works even better. This is to help prevent other people from picking up a case that looks like theirs by accident. Also it is recommended that YOU (the parent/guardian) keep a record of the make, model, and serial # of the instrument.

Method Books and other materials needed by all students:

- Pencil w/eraser at all times (NO Pens)
- A Red pen for grading
- Tradition of Excellence Band Method Bk 1 by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin. (These are instrument specific and not needed until I have met with your child and we have chosen an instrument.) The cost is \$10.95 (French horn books are \$11.50 and Percussion \$13.50) Purchased through CHARMS delivered at school
- Excellence In Theory by Ryan Nowlin and Bruce Pearson The Cost is \$6.95 purchased through CHARMS delivered at school
- Winning Rhythms by Edward L. Ayola The Cost is \$4.95 purchased through CHARMS delivered at school
- Instrumental microphones for your computer. These are available at SMARTMUSIC.com for \$29.95 USB
- Plastic or vinyl binder with pockets to keep notes and worksheets in.
- A music stand to practice at home
- Tuner/ Metronome combination (Apps for these can be found for SMART phones at a very reasonable price). The TONAL ENERGY app is recommended
- One box of tissue and one ream of 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper donated to the band at the start of the year

Flute players will need:

- **Yamaha-Model 221 and Geimienhardt Model 2SP** are Strongly Recommended Brands. Others include Jupiter, Selmer and Antiqua.
- Cleaning rod and cleaning Swab (a Thin cloth to use for swabbing out their horns keeps the instrument from growing mold and mildew Keeps pads from falling out) Avoid using the “PAD SAVERS”

Clarinet players will need:

- Their instruments – Yamaha, Buffet, Selmer (not the Prelude), Jupiter are the preferred and recommended brands,
- Mouthpiece - **Hite Premier mouthpiece** or a mouthpiece recommended by their private teacher, not the stock mouthpiece)
- **Three good reeds at all times** (#3 strength Juno reeds to start with, stock up. Later as students are better able to manage their reeds they should move to Vandoren V12 for clarinet reeds)
- A cleaning swab to remove moisture from inside the horn after playing. This will keep instruments from growing mold/mildew on the pads.
- **A neck strap (Clarinetists should ask for a clarinet neck strap, make sure it will work with the thumb rest on the horn)**

Saxophone players will need:

- Their instruments - Yamaha, Selmer (not the Prelude), Jupiter, Antigua,
- Mouthpiece - Selmer Seles Prologue or a Selmer C*, Hite Premier,
- Reeds - **Three good reeds at all times** (#3 strength Juno reeds to start with, stock up)
- Neck Strap - well padded and a closing clip
- Cleaning swab to wipe moisture from the inside of the horn after it has been played. This will keep instruments from growing mold/mildew on the pads

Double reed players (oboes and bassoons) Yamaha or Fox recommended. School provides Bassoons

- Their instruments - A quality instrument (Oboes need an instrument with a full conservatory system featuring the low Bb and left hand F)
- Three good Handmade medium reeds at all times (not synthetic)
- A reed case (not the case they come in)
- A swab (Silk Oboe swabs work best for oboes)
- A Small container to hold water for soaking their reeds before playing. The old 35mm film canisters work great or a medicine dispenser cup

Brass players (trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba)

Students using school horns should provide their own mouthpieces.

Recommended Brass Mouthpieces: Trumpets Bach 5C, French Horns Holten MC, Trombones and Euphoniums Yamaha 51 or Bach 6.5AL, Tubas Helleberg 7B or Bach 18

- Their instruments – Trumpet, Trombone recommended brands are **Yamaha, Holton or Bach, Jupiter in that order**
- French Horn – Recommended Brands are Holton. (Double Horns Only) **Do not purchase a Single Horn.** See Mr. McConn (FCMS Band should have these available). Hoggtowne is working on an affordable double horn for rental purposes.
- Euphoniums (Baritones)– Yamaha, Besson, or Jupiter are the recommended brands. (FCMS Band has some of these available)
- Valve oil – Al Cass “FAST” is a very good brand, Also Blue Juice and Pro oil
- Cleaning snake and Mouthpiece brush
- Tuning slide grease
- Trombones will need a good slide lubricant (Slide-O-Mix), in addition to tuning slide grease.
- Spit rag for the floor for all brass instruments
- Soft rag to wipe down the instrument

Percussionists:

● A Percussion Kit for use at home). In this kit will be a Bell set (hide the note names on the keys with Tape) a snare drum and stand, mallets w/hard plastic head and long handles, Practice pad, and 2B Drum Sticks.or the equivalent. A Bell kit that does not have the snare drum is also acceptable.

CONCERT BAND MATERIALS NEEDED

All students MUST mark their cases and books with their name and contact information before bringing it to school. Painters tape will work well. A luggage tag works even better. This is to help prevent other people from picking up a case that looks like theirs by accident. Also it is recommended that YOU (the parent/guardian) keep a record of the make, model, and serial # of the instrument.

Method Books and other materials needed by all students:

- Pencil w/eraser at all times (NO Pens except for grading papers)
- A Red pen for grading
- Tradition of Excellence Band Method Bks 1 and 2 by Bruce Pearson and Ryan Nowlin. (instrument specific) These can be purchased through CHARMS for \$10.95 (French horn books are \$11.50 and Percussion \$13.50) delivered at school
- Winning Rhythms by Edward L. Ayola These can be purchased through CHARMS for \$4.95 and delivered at school.
- Instrumental microphones for your computer. Available at SMARTMUSIC.com for \$29.95 USB. Built in mics also work
- Plastic or vinyl binder with pockets to keep notes and worksheets in.
- A music stand to practice at home
- Tuner/ Metronome combination (Apps for these can be found for SMART phones at a very reasonable price). The TONAL ENERGY app is recommended
- One box of tissue and one ream of 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper donated to the band at the start of the year

Flute players will need:

- Their instruments
- Cleaning rod and cleaning Swab (a Thin cloth to use for swabbing out their horns keeps the instrument from growing mold and mildew Keeps pads from falling out) Avoid using the “PAD SAVERS”

Clarinet players will need:

- Their instruments – A good Quality reputable brand. Yamaha, Buffet, Jupiter, Vito, Selmer
- Mouthpiece (**clarinet players need a Hite Premier mouthpiece** or a mouthpiece recommended by their private teacher, not the stock mouthpiece that comes in the horn)
- **At least Three good reeds at all times** (#3 strength Vandoren or Vandoren V12)
- A cleaning swab to remove moisture from inside the horn after playing. This will keep instruments from growing mold/mildew on the pads.
- **A neck strap (Clarinet players should ask for a clarinet neck strap, make sure it will work with the thumb rest on the horn)**

Saxophone Players will need:

- Their instruments - A good reputable brand, Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Antigua
- Mouthpiece - Selmer Seles Prologue or **Selmer S80 C*** or a Hite Premier
- At least 3 good reeds at all times - (#3 Strength Vandoren)
- A good padded neck strap

Double reed players (oboes and bassoons) Yamaha or Fox recommended. School provides Bassoons

- Their instruments- A quality horn (Oboes ideally need a horn with a full conservatory system featuring a low Bb key & left hand F)
- Three good handmade medium reeds at all times (not synthetic)
- A reed case (not the case they come in)
- A swab (Silk Oboe swabs work best for oboes)
- Small leak proof container to hold water for soaking their reeds before playing. Tupperware or used medicine bottles work.

Brass players (trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba).

Students using school horns should provide their own mouthpieces. Recommended Brass Mouthpieces: Trumpets 5C, French Horns MC, Trombones and Euphoniums Yamaha 51 or Bach 6.5AL, Tubas Helleberg 7B or Bach 18

- Their instruments– Trumpet, Trombone recommended brands: **Yamaha, Holton or Bach, Jupiter in that order**
- French Horn – Recommended Brands are Holton. (Double Horns Only) **Do not purchase a Single Horn.** These are usually available through the school.
- Euphoniums (Baritones)– Yamaha, Besson, or Jupiter are the recommended brands. (FCMS Band has some available)
- Valve oil – Al Cass “FAST” is a very good brand, Also Blue Juice and Pro oil
- Cleaning snake and Mouthpiece brush
- Tuning slide grease
- Trombones will need a good slide lubricant, (Slide-O-Mix) in addition to tuning slide grease.
- All Brass need A Spit Rag for the floor and a Soft rag to wipe down the instrument

SYMPHONIC BAND MATERIALS NEEDED

All students MUST mark their cases and books with their name and contact information before bringing it to school. Painters tape will work well. A luggage tag works even better. This is to help prevent other people from picking up a case that looks like theirs by accident. Also it is recommended that YOU (the parent/guardian) keep a record of the make, model, and serial # of the instrument.

Method Books and other materials needed by all students:

- Pencil w/eraser at all times (NO Pens except a red pen for grading)
- A Red pen for grading
- Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King
- Winning Rhythms by Edward L. Ayola These can be purchased through CHARMS and delivered at school \$5.50
- Instrumental microphones for your computer. Available at SMARTMUSIC.com for \$29.95 USB. Built in mics also work.
- Plastic or vinyl binder with pockets to keep notes and worksheets in.
- A music stand to practice at home
- Tuner/ Metronome combination (Apps for these can be found for SMART phones at a very reasonable price). The TONAL ENERGY app is recommended
- One box of tissue and one ream of 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper donated to the band at the start of the year

Flute players will need:

- Their instruments - A good quality instrument from a reputable brand, i.e. Yamaha, Geimeinhardt, Selmer, Jupiter (some students at this level are ready to start working on an open hole flute.
- Cleaning rod and cleaning Swab (a Thin cloth to use for swabbing out their horns keeps the instrument from growing mold and mildew Keeps pads from falling out) Avoid using the “PAD SAVERS”

Clarinet players will need:

- Their instruments – A good Quality reputable brand. Yamaha, Buffet, Jupiter, Vito, Selmer
- Mouthpiece (**clarinets need a Hite Premier mouthpiece** or a mouthpiece recommended by their private teacher, not the stock mouthpiece that comes in the horn, and a **Bonade Ligature**)
- **At least Three good reeds at all times** (3 or 3.5 strength Vandoren V12)
- A cleaning swab to remove moisture from inside the horn after playing. This will keep instruments from growing mold/mildew on the pads.
- **A neck strap (Clarinetts should ask for a clarinet neck strap, make sure it will work with the thumb rest on the horn)**

Saxophone Players will need:

- Their instruments - A good reputable brand, Yamaha, Selmer, Jupiter, Antigua
- Mouthpiece - **Selmer S80 C*** or Selmer Seles Prologue
- At least 3 good reeds at all times - (#3 Strength Vandoren)
- A good padded neck strap

Double reed players (oboes and bassoons) Yamaha or Fox recommended. School provides Bassoons

- Their instruments- A quality horn (Oboes ideally need a horn with a full conservatory system featuring a low Bb key & left hand F)
- Three good handmade medium reeds at all times (not synthetic)
- A reed case (not the case they come in)
- A swab (Silk Oboe swabs work best for oboes)
- Small leak proof container to hold water for soaking their reeds before playing. medicine dispensing cups or used medicine bottles work.

Brass players (trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba)

Students using school horns should provide their own mouthpieces.

Recommended Brass Mouthpieces: Trumpets 5C, French Horns Farkas MC, Trombones and Euphoniums Yamaha 51 or Bach 6.5AL, Tubas Helleberg 7B or Bach 18

- Their instruments– Trumpet, Trombone recommended brands: **Yamaha, Holton or Bach, Jupiter & Antiqua in that order**
- French Horn – Recommended Brands are Holton. (Double Horns Only) **Do not purchase a Single Horn.** These are usually available through the school.
- Euphoniums (Baritones)– Yamaha, Besson, or Jupiter are the recommended brands. (FCMS Band has some available)
- Valve oil – Al Cass “FAST” is a very good brand, Also Blue Juice and Pro oil
- Cleaning snake and Mouthpiece brush
- Tuning slide grease
- Trombones will need a good slide lubricant, in addition to tuning slide grease, Slide-O-Mix is the best.
- A Spit Rag for the floor for all brass instruments and a Soft rag to wipe down the instrument

ADVANCED PERCUSSION MATERIALS NEEDED

All students MUST mark their cases and books with their name and contact information before bringing it to school. A luggage tag is about the only thing that will work for percussion kits and Stick bags. This is to help prevent other people from picking up a case that looks like theirs by accident. Also it is recommended that YOU (the parent/guardian) keep a record of the make, model, and serial # of the instrument.

Method Books and other materials needed by all students:

- Pencil w/eraser at all times (NO Pens except a red pen for grading purposes)
- A Red pen for grading
- Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King (We will have these for students)
- Winning Rhythms by Edward L. Ayola Can be purchased through CHARMS for \$5.50 and delivered at school
- Instrumental microphones for your computer. These are available at SMARTMUSIC.com for \$29.95 USB. Built in mics also work
- Plastic or vinyl binder with pockets to keep notes and worksheets in.
- A music stand to practice at home
- Tuner/ Metronome combination (Apps for these can be found for SMART phones at a very reasonable price). The TONAL ENERGY app is recommended
- One medium bottle of hand sanitizer and one ream of 8 ½ x 11 white copy paper donated to the band at the start of the year

Stick Bag - With one pair of Staccatto Tymp mallets, One pair of General Tymp mallets, One pair hard plastic bell/Xylophone mallets, one pair of hard rubber bell/xylophone mallets. Two matching pair of marimba mallets, one pair of medium concert drum sticks.

Keyboard Mallet instrument for home use - note names covered if visible. Their bell kit from previous years or a practice xylophone/marimba will work.

CLASS RULES

Be Prepared

Be Attentive

Be Respectful

Make Music

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

1. Enter class in an orderly manner. Get your music, pencil, planner, band binder and method books. Place your book bag under your seat. Bring your spit rag and instrument. Sit in your assigned seat. Check board for a “DO IT NOW” and begin.
Always have a pencil.
2. **Be in seat working one minute after the bell.** Roll will be taken by the director, or your section leader. Be prepared to show your pencil, music, binder and instrument. If you are not in the room getting your instrument out at the bell and you are not in your seat within one minute after the bell, you are tardy. Sign the tardy book.
3. Do not play your instrument before class without the director’s permission.
4. When the director steps on the podium, holds his hands straight up over his head, or calls out “hey band”, immediately do the following:
 - 1) freeze
 - 2) stop all talking and noise
 - 3) face the director
 - 4) listen to instructions
 - 5) prepare to learn or carry out instructions.
5. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized to talk or get out of your seat for any reason.
6. When the director raises his baton, raise your instruments to playing position, when he cuts off, stop playing immediately.
7. To visit the restroom raise your hand and wait to be recognized. Nod or point to the bathroom. When the director has given his permission sign out using your name, date and

time. Use the restrooms in the music building. If you must go to the main building for some reason, fill out the hall pass in your planner and bring it to the director to be signed. Then sign out at the door.

8. When dumping water (spit) from your instrument, always dump on a spit - rag.
9. The director dismisses class not the bell. Put all music back in its folder. Put folders neatly in the appropriate place. Put all instruments away in their appropriate cases and latch all cases. Place cases back on the shelf or in the appropriate location. Carefully put away or cover all percussion instruments sticks, pads and mallets. Do not leave them out or on the floor.
10. Always be respectful and supportive of one another, the equipment, and the facility. Meanness, fighting, horse play, running, chase and other games of that nature are not appropriate in the music building.
11. Emergency evacuations
Upon hearing the signal:
Immediately get quiet.
Listen for instructions.
Stand up and file out single file, row by row.
Remain quiet. Remain in single file.
Go out the front door, across the bus circle watching for cars.
Break off by row and line up to the right of the row ahead.
Remain quiet.
Listen for roll and answer "here".
At the bell return in single file to the classroom.
Enter class in an orderly fashion and listen for instructions.
12. When turning in money for any purpose, put the money and invoice from Charms if available in an envelope with the student's name, and class period and what the money for written on the outside of the envelope. Then drop the envelope in the blue collection box under the mirror on the office side of the room, next to the music library.
Mr. McConn does not handle or take money.
13. Always have a parent call or e-mail when you are going to miss a scheduled rehearsal. School # 333-2800, Mr. McConn's e-mail is mconnwe@gm.sbac.edu. Should that not be possible for some reason, bring a note the next day.

GRADING POLICY

It should be understood that students do not attend school for the purposes of attaining a grade. They do not attend classes for the purpose of taking a test to achieve a score. Students come to school to learn. they take classes to acquire knowledge or attain certain skills needed for successful living. The grade is simply a reflection of how well they have mastered the material they are to be learning. Since Band is an elective subject it is assumed that students WANT to learn to make music on an instrument and will have a high level of motivation to gain the necessary knowledge and skills to make music on their chosen instrument. Mastering an instrument takes years but with steady application of basic principles it is amazing how far a student can go in a short period. Regular installments of small amounts of FOCUSED time and study will yield tremendous results.

A student's grade in band is based on the following:

- Class Participation and Preparation 25% - Having all the required materials for class and being actively engaged in the class instruction
- Class Performance - 25% - How well a student performs when called on in class to play, count out loud, answer questions etc.
- Test and Quizzes - 20% - During the quarter students will be required to perform a variety of written, oral, and playing test both recorded and live. Since Band is a performance class, Concerts will count as a major test grade. Excused absences for concerts are: illness, prior scheduled family out of town trips (concerts are scheduled at the beginning of the year and it is expected that this will be taken into consideration when planning travel), death in the family. Anything else will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Homework- 15% - Homework consist of maintaining and turning in weekly Practice Logs, various written assignments i.e. Theory assignments, SMARTMUSIC assignments (primarily Beginning and Concert Band Students).
- Miscellaneous (Extra Rehearsals etc.) - 15% Each band will have from time to time outside of school full band rehearsals for which they will receive a percentage grade (100pts for being present and on time, 85pts for being 1 to 10 minutes late, and going down incrementally from there to 0 for non-attendance). Excused absences and tardies must be accompanied with a note or email from the parent. Excused absences include: illness, prior scheduled activity, (i.e. Doctors appointment, Sports game, mandatory previously scheduled rehearsal for another performing group that cannot be adjusted/rescheduled) previously scheduled family out of town trip, death in the family. Band rehearsals are publicized well in advance and it is expected that students will make every effort to attend. Band is a team activity. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND REHEARSALS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM WITH THE BAND ON CONCERTS.** Concerts equal a major test grade.

CHARMS

Charms is Fort Clarke Band's primary method of communication. We utilize the financial component to track students' payments and other purchases made through the program. **Returning families should be able to access CHARMS using last year's login/password.**

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com, and click "ENTER / LOG IN" in the upper right corner.
- Locate the "PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN" section of the web page.
- Login to your student's program account using the following School Code: **FortClarke**
- The first time you go here, enter your child's ID NUMBER (provided on a separate form) into the Student Area Password field. You will be directed to the Change Password screen, to set a personal password different from the ID, for future use. There are also mechanisms to recover/reset a lost Username/Password – when you create your new password, create a "hint" as well.
- Whenever you enter using this Username/password, another more detailed screen appears, with various button options for you to access areas in the Charms account.
- Update Personal Information – Please do this now! Charms is our primary method of communication. Edit your student's information page for accuracy. Add yourself and your contact information as the ADULT. Please do not change the student name to yours. SBAC email addresses will not accept emails from Charms. Please use an alternate email from an SBAC address. Click Update Info to save changes.
- We are now using the "store" in Charms for all uniform orders as well. Please click on the shopping cart to complete any uniform orders. Always print your invoice and enclose your invoice with your payment envelope. Orders are not final until payment is received. If you want to use Fundraising or Misc. credits to make Fair Share payments, please write that information on the invoice along with a check for the balance due. **Credit card payments are now accepted in Charms. A 3.5% processing fee will be added to all credit card payments.**
- You can also download the Charms App to your smartphone – search your App Store for "Charms Parent/Student Portal" (or "Charms Blue"). It's a way to stay in touch on the go!

Question? Contact Jennifer Miller, Booster Secretary, at jennleighbm72@gmail.com.

FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTIONS

WHAT IS FAIR SHARE?

Fair Share simply means each student will be responsible for paying their “fair share” to help cover the operating expenses for the Fort Clarke Middle School Band. The Fair Share is a graduated amount based on the band in which a student participates. The contribution may be paid all at once or in two installments. Other arrangements can be made if necessary on an individual basis (i.e. monthly or quarterly payments). There will also be fundraisers during the year geared specifically for raising the Fair Share and travel expenses for each individual student. Please see the Fundraising Policy and Schedule for further information about fundraising.

WHAT IS PAID WITH FAIR SHARE?

Fair Share is used to pay for everything purchased/paid for to operate the band. These funds will pay for music purchases, instructional materials, adjunct teachers who come in to teach small groups, piano accompanist for Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment, bus transportation to events and performances, audition fees, piano tunings, instrument repairs, instrument purchases, office supplies, and a variety of other expenses necessary to operate a middle school band. While Fair Share is considered a donation we do expect it to be paid by each student. The annual band budget is calculated based on this program. A breakdown of the budget is available to all boosters upon request.

HOW MUCH IS FAIR SHARE?

Beginning Band - \$100 per year or two payments of \$50 each.
Concert Band - \$180 per year or two payments of \$90.
Symphonic Band - \$220 per year or two payments of \$110
Advanced Percussion - \$220 per year or two payments of \$110

WHEN IS FAIR SHARE DUE?

The first Fair Share due date is November 1, 2019, the second payment and final payment is due by January 31, 2020. The balance may be paid all at once, in several payments, leading up to the January 31, 2020 due date.

HOW DO I PAY MY CHILD’S FAIR SHARE?

Fair Share payments are accepted via check, cash, or by credit card through Paypal. Paypal payments must be made through Charms and a 3.5% processing fee will be accessed at the time of checkout. Students who pay their Fair Share in full before the Winter Concert will be entered into a cash prize drawing, and one winner per band will be chosen.

IS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE?

Financial Assistance can be requested by submitting a Financial Assistant Form on or before September 7th. Forms are available in the back of this handbook and from the band director. It is important to understand that we do not want to eliminate any student because of financial hardship.

Students who do not pay Fair Share and have not asked for financial assistance will not be allowed to travel with the band on any of the out of town trips (Universal or Water Park).

FUNDRAISING

Each year the band sponsors fundraisers that benefit the band's general fund as well as students' Fair Share. Fundraisers are not mandatory; however, they greatly benefit the overall organization, and participation is strongly encouraged! More Fundraisers may be added as the school year progresses.

Fundraisers for the General Booster Fund

- Applebee's Pancake Breakfast
 - January 25, 2020

- Vidalia Onion Sales
 - April 2020

Fundraiser for Individual Student Fair Share

Money raised by students can be applied to his/her Fair Share. We have 2 in the fall to give families the opportunity to raise money toward Fair Share which is due in full by January 31st.

- Sweetwater Coffee
 - September 25, 2019

- Rome Apples
 - November 4 - 19, 2019 to be delivered December 14, 2019

UNIFORM GENERAL INFORMATION

UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH BAND ARE LISTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES:

BEGINNING BAND	Page 16
CONCERT BAND	Page 17
SYMPHONIC BAND	Page 18
ADVANCED PERC.	Page 20
JAZZ BAND	Page 22

Uniform items are available for purchase in the CHARMS online store.

To access the store in CHARMS:

Go to www.charmsoffice.com

In the School Code section type **FortClarke**

Enter your user name/password.

Click on the red shopping cart at the top.

Select the items you would like to order.

Select payment method.

Cash or Check - Print Bill and send invoice and cash/check with your student.

All money goes in the big blue box in the band room.

Credit Card - Follow prompts. **A 3.5% processing fee will be added to all credit card payments.**

IMPORTANT: Your order is NOT complete until payment has been received!

What can I buy in the CHARMS online store?

- Fort Clarke Band T-Shirt – required for all band students
- White Tuxedo Shirt – required for all Beginning and Concert Band students and only Boys in Symphonic Band
- Black Tuxedo Pants – required for boys in the Concert and Symphonic Bands
- Formal Skirt and Dress Rental Fee - for girls in Concert and Symphonic Bands to cover the cost of dry cleaning
- Navy Blue Polo – required for students in Concert and Symphonic Bands only (NOT Beginners!)
 - Pre-Solo and Ensemble nights, All County Auditions, and other events as it seems appropriate.
- Fort Clarke Band Sweatshirt – OPTIONAL for all band students

All items purchased as well as Concert Band skirts and Symphonic dresses will be sent home by mid-October. Families who have submitted a Financial Assistance form to Mr. McConn will be supplied with uniform items from our inventory in the Uniform Closet (we “check out” these items in a similar way as a library book).

QUESTIONS? Contact the Uniform Coordinator: Jennie Urbine jennieurbine@hotmail.com or 352/240-2426

BEGINNING BAND

Beginning band is a journey! Students start by learning the basics about their instruments and music fundamentals. As the year progresses, they become more confident in their playing and performing. It is amazing to hear students, who start with little or no experience, make music together at the spring concert!

Not sure what instrument you'll play yet?

We will be doing instrument fittings after school from 3:40 to 5:00pm on **August 14, 27 & September 3, 4, 5 (if needed). We will fit on August 16 and 20 from 3:45 - 7:30** in order to save class time for instruction. Students may sign up for a testing time on the office window inside the band room.

Concert Information

Beginning Band performs in two concerts during the year.

Winter Concert:	Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Buchholz High School Auditorium
Spring Concert:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium

Extra Rehearsals will be held:

Thursdays, from 3:45 - 5:00pm Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Monday, Dec 16

Thursdays, April 16, April 23, and Monday, April 27.

Uniform Requirements

Blue Fort Clarke Band T-Shirt worn with jeans Cost: \$10 (\$12 for 2XL -3XL)

Formal Uniform for Concerts:

➤ Boys

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons Cost: \$22
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019.
 - Order in CHARMS.
- Black dress pants of your choice
- Black crew socks and black dress shoes

➤ Girls

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons Cost: \$22
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019.
 - Order in CHARMS
- Black dress pants or long black skirt of your choice. No Slits other than a short kick pleat.
- Black dress shoes

➤ Only stud earrings allowed. Hair must be pulled back away from face (short bangs are fine).

➤ Red bow ties will be distributed immediately before the concert and collected afterwards.

Fair Share

Beginning band students have a Fair Share contribution of \$100. The first payment of \$50 is due by November 1, 2019. The second payment of \$50 is due by January 31, 2020.

End of Year Water Park Trip: Monday, June 1, 2020

A band tradition! To celebrate the students' success, we go to a waterpark on the first day of summer vacation. Stay tuned for more details in the Spring!

CONCERT BAND

Concert Information

Concert Band performs in three concerts and one judged assessment (“MPA”) during the year.

Winter Concert:	Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Buchholz High School Auditorium
Pre-MPA Concert:	February 20, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
Music Performance Assessment:	March 5 - 7, 2020	Lincoln Middle School
Spring Concert:	April 28, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium

Extra Rehearsals will be held: (Additional Rehearsals will be scheduled on Thursdays in Jan. Feb and March as we prepare for FBA Concert MPA)

Tuesdays from 3:40pm to 5:00pm Dec 3, Dec 10 and 7:45am on Dec. 17

Tuesdays from 3:40pm to 5:00pm April 14 & April 21, and 7:45am on April 28.

Universal Studios STARS Performance Trip: Friday, November 15, 2019

Concert Band will travel with the Symphonic Band to Universal Studios to participate in the one day Sound Design Workshop. More information will be given as the year progresses.

Solo and Ensemble

Students are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble experience. Students prepare a piece of music to perform by themselves or in a small group in front of a judge.

Pre-Solo and Ensemble performance:	February 4, 7 or 11, 2020	Fort Clarke	Navy Polo/Khakis
Solo and Ensemble:	February 14 & 15, 2019	TBD	Formal Uniform

Uniform Requirements

Blue Fort Clarke Band T-Shirt worn with jeans Cost: \$10 (\$12 for 2XL -3XL)

Formal Uniform for Concerts and Music Performance Assessments:

➤ Boys

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons order in CHARMS Cost: \$22
 - Same shirt as in Beginning Band so no need to order if yours still fits.
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019.
- Black tuxedo pants to be ordered in CHARMS. Cost: \$28
- Black crew socks and black dress shoes

➤ Girls

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons; order in CHARMS Cost: \$22
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019.
 - Same shirt as in Beginning Band so no need to order if yours still fits.
- Black concert skirt assigned and checked out from Fort Clarke Rental/Cleaning Fee: \$10
- Black dress shoes

➤ Only stud earrings allowed. Hair must be pulled back away from face (short bangs are fine).

➤ Red Bow Ties and Cumberbunds assigned and “checked out” from Fort Clarke before concerts

Fair Share

Concert Band students have a Fair Share contribution of \$180: \$90 due 11/2/19 and \$90 due 1/31/20.

End of Year Water Park Trip: Monday, June 1, 2020 A celebration of success 1st day of summer Vacation

SYMPHONIC BAND

Performance Information

The Symphonic Band performs in a variety of concerts and one judged performance (“MPA”).

Universal STARS Workshop	Friday, November 15, 2019	Universal Studios
Winter Concert:	Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	December TBD	Hidden Oak students come to FCMS Band Room
Pre-MPA Concert:	Thursday, February 21, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
Music Performance Assessment:	March 5 - 7, 2019	Lincoln Middle School
Spring Concert:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	April & May 2020	Band travels to Meadowbrook, Talbot, Terwilliger
Fat City Farewell:	May 29, 2020	Phillips Center for Performing Arts

Solo and Ensemble

Students in Symphonic Band are required to participate in the Solo and Ensemble experience. Students prepare a piece of music to perform by themselves or in a small group. Students then perform their piece in front of a judge. The experience and feedback the students receive is well worth the effort!

Pre-Solo and Ensemble performance:	February 4, 7 or 11, 2020	Fort Clarke	Navy Polo/Khakis
Solo and Ensemble:	February 14 & 15, 2020	TBD	Formal Uniform

Early Morning Rehearsals

In addition to playing in class, the Symphonic Band meets before school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45AM - 9:00 AM beginning Friday, September 20th. Early morning rehearsals are required.

Universal Studios STARS Performance Trip: Friday, November 15, 2019

Symphonic Band will travel with Concert Band to Universal Studios to participate in the one day Sound Design Workshop. More information will be given as the year progresses.

Rehearse-a-thon Saturday, February 29, 2020

Symphonic Band spends a day at Fort Clarke to further prepare for MPA and to have fun together!

All County and All State Band Auditions

Each year middle schools students may audition to be a part of the Alachua County Middle School Honor Band and/or All State Bands. These bands are composed of the top middle school band students in Alachua county and Florida, respectively. All State Auditions are on September 21st at Oak View Middle School. All County Auditions are on December 7th at Oak View Middle School.

All County rehearsals are after school on March 10 & 12 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm and on March 16th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Fort Clarke Middle School. There is an all day rehearsal on March 17th from 8:30am to 3:00pm. also at FCMS. The All County Honor Band concert is March 18, 2020 at the UF Performing Arts

Center. Fort Clarke consistently has many students participate in the All County Band. **Auditioning for the All County Honor Band is REQUIRED for 8th grade Symphonic students. 7th grade students are encouraged to audition.**

Fair Share

Symphonic band students have a Fair Share contribution of \$220. The first payment of \$110 is due by November 1, 2019. The second payment of \$110 is due by January 31, 2020.

End of Year Water Park Trip: Monday, June 1, 2020

A band tradition! To celebrate the students' success, we go to a waterpark on the first day of summer vacation. Stay tuned for more details in the Spring!

Uniform Requirements

Blue Fort Clarke Band T-Shirt worn with jeans T-Shirt Cost: \$10 (\$12 for 2XL -3XL)

Navy blue Fort Clarke Band Polo worn with khaki pants Polo Cost: \$20 (\$22 for 2XL-3XL)

Formal Uniform for Concerts:

➤ Boys

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons Cost: \$22
 - Same as worn in Beginning and Concert bands so no need to order if it still fits.
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019.
 - Order in CHARMS.
 - Black tuxedo pants to be ordered in CHARMS. (same as worn in Concert Band)
 - Black crew socks
 - Black dress shoes
- Bow-ties and Vests assigned and “checked out” from Fort Clarke immediately before concerts and collected following the concert.

➤ Girls

- Black concert dress assigned and “checked out” from Fort Clarke
 - Rental/Cleaning Fee: \$20
- Black dress shoes - nude stockings, if worn
- No necklaces, please - we want all of the girls to match. Only stud earrings.
- Hair must be pulled back away from face (bangs are fine).

Officers and Section Leaders

Several 8th grade students have been selected to serve in leadership roles in the Symphonic band. They have demonstrated responsibility, dedication, and leadership within their sections. During the year, the officers and section leaders are responsible for communicating with the other students in their sections about rehearsal reminders, materials to bring, etc. This is primarily done through personal text messaging and emails. The section leaders will collect the phone numbers/emails of the students at the beginning of the school year.

ADVANCED PERCUSSION

The Advanced Percussion class is designed for students who have successfully completed the beginning level of percussion skills in the Beginning Band. Students in the Advanced Percussion class are assigned to either the Concert or the Symphonic band for their band performance. They will rehearse with these groups before or after school. In class, they learn to perform the skills unique to percussionists in addition to learning the music necessary for the band to which they are assigned.

Performance Information

Advanced Percussion performs in a variety of concerts and one or more adjudicated performances (“MPA”).

Winter Concert:	Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	December TBD	Hidden Oak students come to FCMS Band Room
Pre-MPA Concert:	Thursday, February 21, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
Music Performance Assessment:	March 5 - 7, 2019	Lincoln Middle School
Spring Concert:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	April & May 2020	Band travels to Meadowbrook, Talbot, Terwilliger
Fat City Farewell:	May 29, 2020	Phillips Center for Performing Arts

Solo and Ensemble

Students in Advanced Percussion class are required to participate in the Solo and Ensemble experience. Students prepare a piece of music to perform by themselves or in a small group. Students then perform their piece in front of a judge. The experience and feedback the students receive is well worth the effort!

Pre-Solo and Ensemble performance:	February 4, 7 or 11, 2019	Fort Clarke	Navy Polo/Khakis
Solo and Ensemble:	February 14 & 15, 2019	TBD	Formal Uniform

Extra Rehearsals

The Symphonic Band Percussion meet with the Symphonic Band before school on Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:45 AM - 9:00 AM beginning September 20th. Early morning rehearsals are required.

Concert Band Percussionists rehearse with the Concert Band during extra scheduled rehearsals. They will follow the Concert Band Extra Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesdays from 3:40pm to 5:00pm	Dec 3, Dec 10 and Dec. 17 (7:45am)
Tuesdays from 3:40pm to 5:00pm	April 14, April 21, and April 28 (7:45am).

Universal Studios STARS Performance Trip: Friday, November 15, 2019

Symphonic Band and Concert Band will travel to Universal Studios to participate in the one day Sound Design Workshop. More information will be given as the year progresses.

Symphonic Band Rehearse-a-thon: Saturday, February 29, 2020

Symphonic Band spends a day at Fort Clarke to further prepare for MPA and to have fun together!

All County and All State Band Auditions

Each year middle schools students may audition to be a part of the Alachua County Middle School Honor Band and/or All State Bands. These bands are composed of the top middle school band students in Alachua county and Florida, respectively. All State Auditions are on September 21st at Oak View Middle School. All County Auditions are on December 7th at Oak View Middle School.

All County rehearsals are after school in March at Fort Clarke Middle School. The All County Honor Band concert is March 18, 2020 at the UF Performing Arts Center. **All-County Audition is required of all Symphonic Band students unless there is an unavoidable conflict. Concert Band Students are strongly encouraged to audition.** (Please wear your navy band polo and khakis). Fort Clarke consistently has a very strong representation in this organization, particularly in the percussion section.

Fair Share And Instrument Maintenance Fee

All Advanced Percussion students have a Fair Share contribution of \$220. The first payment of \$110 is due by November 1, 2019. The second payment of \$110 is due by January 31, 2020. In addition since percussionist use the school's percussion equipment Advanced percussion pay the \$50 per semester Instrument Maintenance fee.

End of Year Water Park Trip: Monday, June 1, 2020

A band tradition! To celebrate the students' success, we go to a waterpark on the first day of summer vacation. Stay tuned for more details in the Spring!

Uniform Requirements

Blue Fort Clarke Band T-Shirt worn with jeans T-Shirt Cost: \$10 (\$12 for 2XL -3XL)

Navy blue Fort Clarke Band Polo worn with khaki pants Polo Cost: \$20 (\$22 for 2XL-3XL)

Formal Uniform for Concerts:

➤ Boys

- White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons Cost: \$22
 - Same as worn in Beginning and Concert band, so if it still fits no need to reorder.
 - We will measure your student on August 27, 2019. Order in CHARMS.
- Black tuxedo pants to be ordered in CHARMS. (same as worn in Concert band)
- Black crew socks and black dress shoes

➤ Bow-ties and Vests (Symphonic) or Cummerbunds (Concert) assigned and "checked out" from Fort Clarke immediately before concerts and collected following the concert.

➤ Girls

- Symphonic Girls wear the Black concert dress assigned and "checked out" from Fort Clarke Rental/Cleaning Fee: \$20 (covers laundering throughout the year)
- Black dress shoes - nude stockings, if worn. No necklaces, please, so everyone matches.
- Concert Girls
 - Fort Clarke concert skirt checked out from Fort Clarke Cleaning Fee: \$10
 - White, wing-tipped collar tuxedo shirt with black buttons Cost: \$22
 - ◆ We will measure your student on August 27, 2019. Order in CHARMS.
 - Black dress shoes - nude stockings, if worn

➤ Only stud earrings allowed. Hair must be pulled back away from face (short bangs are fine).

JAZZ BAND

Jazz band offers a unique opportunity for 7th and 8th graders to play a different style of music and musical interpretation. Students from Concert and Symphonic Bands may participate. This band is optional and meets only before school.

Performance Information

The Jazz Band performs in a variety of concerts throughout the year.

Winter Concert:	Tuesday, December 17, 2019	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	December TBD	Hidden Oak students come to FCMS Band Room
REACH Open House:	February 2020	Fort Clarke Cafeteria
Spring Concert:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020	Buchholz High School Auditorium
5th Grade Recruitment:	April & May 2020	Band travels to Meadowbrook, Talbot, Terwilliger

Early Morning Rehearsals

The Jazz Band meets before school on Mondays and Thursdays from 7:45AM - 9:00 AM.

Uniform Requirements

At the REACH Open House students will wear the Navy FCMS Band Polo and Khaki pants with black dress shoes. For the 5th grade concerts, students will wear the blue band t-shirt.

At the Winter and Spring Concerts, students will wear the formal uniform from their primary band.

FORT CLARKE BANDS

Practice Records

August 14, 2019

Parents and Students,

Practice logs are required for all classes on a weekly basis.

What should a Practice Log include?

*Practice Logs **must include** the student's first and last name, period, beginning date and signatures of accuracy by both the parent and student.*

They must include the amount of time practiced daily with a total for the entire week and description of what material was practiced each day. The description should be specific.

What is the time period covered for each log? The Practice Log runs from Monday to Sunday. They are turned in each Monday (Tuesday at the latest). Practice logs will not be accepted after the Tuesday they are due unless a child has been out sick or out of town.

What may be included as practice time?

Private lessons may be counted for up to 30 minutes of practice time.

Attendance at non-Fort Clarke band and orchestra Concerts may account for up to 30 minutes of practice. Attach a copy of the program to the log.

Fort Clarke Band rehearsals that occur outside of school time may be counted as a 30 minute practice session.

How much time is a student required to practice per week? Students are to practice for two hours per week spread over a 5 day period. Extra points may be earned for more than five days and more than 120 minutes. Logs must be signed by a parent.

Where can a student get a Fresh Practice Log? New practice logs are available next to the In- Box as students walk through the front door of the band room.

Grading Rubric

- Students receive 50 points for practicing 5 days (10pts per day)
- They may gain added points for practicing extra days (5pts each day).
- Students receive up to 50 points for practicing up to 120 minutes (2hrs).
- They may add 5 extra points for every 15 minutes practiced over the 120 up to 15 total extra points.
- Students will lose 5 points for each piece of required information not filled in i.e. full name, correct period, beginning date and each subsequent date, time totals, parent and student signatures, what material was practiced etc.

First Practice Log will begin the week of **September 10, 2019**.

FORT CLARKE BANDS PRACTICE RECORD

Week of _____ Student Name _____ Period _____

Monday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Tuesday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Wednesday _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Thursday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Friday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Saturday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

Sunday, _____ Time Practiced (# of minutes) _____

What was practiced? _____

For Office Use Only	
Per Day Grade	_____
Extra Days	_____
Time Grade	_____
Extra Time Pts	_____
Total Points	_____

I certify that the information on this practice record is accurate and true.

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____

Combined General Calendar For All Bands 2019-2020
IMPORTANT DATES - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Thurs., 8/8/19	Symphonic Band Librarians Meeting, Cleaning, Envelope stuffing, Room set up and Symphonic Band Folder preparation. 8:30am – 1:00pm
Wed., 8/14/19	School Instrument request forms and Instrument maintenance fee due for Symphonic and Concert students using school instruments including all Advanced Percussion. (\$50/\$100 instrument maintenance fee or a note/call from a parent due prior to receiving a school-owned instrument.)
8/14, 8/16, 8/20, 8/27, 9/3, 9/4, 9/5	Beginners Instrument fitting 8/14, 9/3,4&5 -3:40 – 5:00 p.m. 8/16 & 20 - 5:00pm - 7:30pm Sign up in the Band room for a time.
Wed. 8/15/19	Symphonic Band Student Officers Meeting 8:15 am
Thurs.Fri, Mon, Tues, 8/15– 20/19	Locker Sign-up Symphonic and Concert Bands. Must have a combination lock. See designated student officer to check out. No fee necessary. No instrument larger than a saxophone will fit.
Thurs., 8/15/19	Beginning Band Parent Orientation Meeting. 7:00pm Fort Clarke Band Room. At least one parent for each student should plan to attend.
Tues. 8/20/19	First Day Instruments needed for Symphonic and Concert Bands and Advanced Percussion
Tues. 8/27/19	Uniform Measuring – A form with appropriate sizes for the parents to order online will be sent home. Symphonic dresses will be fitted throughout September during class.
Wed. 8/28/19 – 9/11/19	Uniform Order window open. Payment due 9/11/2019.
Thurs., 8/29/19	All-State Applications Due for students who wish to audition.
Sat. 8/31/19	All State Preparation Clinic UCF in Orlando Not required. See Brochure in Charms
Tues, 9/3/19	5th Period Advanced Beginners – 1st Day with Instruments
Thurs., 9/5/19 or 9/12/19	Fort Clarke Band Parent Meeting #1 -All Band Parents are encouraged to attend! 7:00pm in Fort Clarke Band Room (Executive Board 6:00pm)
???	Sweetwater Coffee Sales Kick-Off - Individual Student Fair Share Fundraiser
Thurs, 9/6/19	FCMS Back To School Night

Mon, 9/09/19	Practice Logs begin for all classes
Mon, 9/09/19	6th Period Beginning Band 1st Day with Instruments
Thurs. 9/19/19	Jazz Band Early Rehearsals Begin , 7:45 am Mondays and Thursdays
Fri., 9/20/19	Symphonic Band Early Rehearsals Begin 7:45 am Wednesdays & Fridays
Sat., 9/21/19	All-State Auditions. Oak View Middle School. Individual times announced ASAP.
9/?/19	Eastside Middle School Band Night Details TBA
Tues. 10/8/19	FCMS Band Parent Meeting #2 7:00pm FCMS Band Room (Executive Board at 6:00pm)
?	Santa Fe HS. Middle School Band Night Details TBA
Friday, 10/4/19	Field Day Reservation Due All Bands
Sat, 10/12/19	Fort Clarke Band, Field Day – 10:00am – 1:00pm Fort Clarke Lower Field All Bands - Cookout included! Watch for Sign-up Genius - Help Needed!
Sat, 10/26/19	High School Marching MPA-Columbia HS in Lake City, Details TBA - Students encouraged to attend, but not required
Wed. 10/30/19	Beethoven Music Solo and Ensemble Music Sale FCMS Media Center 4:30pm-8:00
11/?/19	Yearbook Club Pictures for all bands – Casual Uniform (FCMS Band T-shirt, Blue Jeans, casual athletic shoes)
Friday, 11/1/19	First Half of Fair Share Due: May be paid in full by the beginning of the 2 nd semester. Checks made to FCMS Band Boosters Fundraiser profits may be used towards Fair Share. See Charms for Balances Due.
Mon., 11/4/19 - 11/19/19	Apple Sales Fundraiser: Individual Student Fair Share Fundraiser
Wednesday, 11/6/19	Individual Band Pictures. During Class. Symphonic Band will be before school. ALL students bring formal uniforms to school that day. Watch for Sign-up Genius!
Thurs., 11/7/19	FCMS Band Parent Meeting #3 - General Meeting 7:00 pm in the band room (Board meeting at 6:00 PM)
Monday, 11/5/19	All-County Application Due. This audition is required for All 8 th Grade Symphonic Students and strongly encouraged for all other Symphonic Band Students)
Monday, 11/?/19	FBA District Meeting – Fort Clarke Middle School Hosts Band Directors (Look for Sign Up Genius for help with dinner prep)

Monday, 11/11/19	Buchholz High School Veterans Day Concert, 7:00 pm. Phillips Center, Extra Credit for Attending
Friday, 11/15/19	Concert and Symphonic Band trip to Universal Studios Sound Design Wkshp
Tues., 11/19/19	Apple Fundraising Orders Due!
Tues. 11/19/19	Concert Band After School Rehearsal 3:45 - 5:00 PM
Wed., 11/20/19	Beginning Band After School Rehearsal 3:45 - 5:00 PM
Tues., 12/3/19	Concert Band After School Rehearsal 3:45 - 5:00 PM
Wed., 12/4/19	Beginning Band After School Rehearsal 3:45 - 5:00 PM
Sat. 12/7/19	All County Middle School Band Audition at Oak View Middle School Individual Times TBA All 8 th Grade Symphonic Band Students required to Audition. 7 th Graders are also encouraged to audition. Uniform will be FC Band Polo, Khaki Pants with Black Dress Shoes
Tues. 12/3/19	Solo and Ensemble Registration Due with Titles and Ensemble Members All Symphonic Band students are required to participate. Concert Band strongly encouraged.
Tues. 12/10/19	BHS Middle School Band Rehearsal 4pm - 6pm (Required of all participating 8th graders) It is strongly encouraged that all 8th graders participate regardless of what you are planning to do with band in HS.
Thurs., 12/12/19	Buchholz High School Winter Concert & Middle School Band Night. BHS Auditorium, 7:00pm, 8 th Graders are Invited and encouraged to participate w/BHS Band on the concert.
Tuesday, 12/17/19	FCMS Winter Concert All Bands @ Buchholz HS Auditorium 6:30pm. Symphonic Band Officers & Percussion arrive 4:30pm., Concert band 5:15pm, Beginners 5:45pm, Other Symphonic students arrive 6:00pm Uniform: Formal Uniforms required: See Uniform Requirements for individual bands Watch for Sign Up Genius to Volunteer!
12/?/19 TBA	Hidden Oak 5th Grade Concert. 8:00 a.m. (Tentative)
12/?/19 TBA	FCMS Assembly Concert. FCMS somewhere 1 st & 2 nd Periods for any classes desiring to come. Casual uniform (t-shirt etc.)
Wed-Sat, 1/8/20- Sat. 1/11/20	FMEA All-State Convention, Tampa. For students who made the 7 th & 8 th grade All-State Band or the Middle School Nomination Band.
Tues. 1/14/20	Booster Board Spring Planning Meeting FCMS Parent Board. Time 6:30pm

	Band room w/ food.
Friday, 1/31/20	Fair Share Deadline for 2nd Semester Payment. See Charms for Balances Due
Friday, 1/31/20	Instrument Maintenance Fee Due. \$50.00 for second semester. Only for those using school instruments. See Charms for Balances Due.
Tues. 1/28/20	Booster Board Meeting 6:00pm/ Band Parent General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. FCMS Band Room
Tues. 2/4/20	Pre - Solo/Ensemble MPA Night #1 @ FCMS. Dry Run. 5:30-830 p.m. Polo and Khakis, Symphonic and Concert band (Beginners encouraged to watch))
Friday, 2/7/20	Pre – Solo/Ensemble MPA Night #2 @ FCMS. Dry Run. 5:30-830 p.m. Polo and Khakis, Symphonic and Concert band (Beginners encouraged to watch)
Tues. 2/11/20	Pre-Solo/Ensemble MPA Night #3. @ FCMS. Dry Run. 5:30-830 p.m. Polo and Khakis, Symphonic and Concert band (Beginners encouraged to watch)
Fri. 2/14 - Sat. 2/15/20	FBA District 4 Solo and Ensemble MPA. Individual performance times Fri. or Sat. TBA. Symphonic and Concert students only. Wear Formal Uniform.
Thurs. 2/20/20	Pre-MPA Concert 7:00 pm combined with Buchholz and Kanapaha, at Buchholz, Symphonic And Concert Band only (Uniform - Formal) Details re: arrival TBA
Tues., 2/25/20	Band Parent Meeting 7:00 PM in the Band Room (Booster Board 6:00 PM)
Friday, 2/29/20	Symphonic Band Rehearse-A-Thon at Fort Clarke Middle School. 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Thurs. OR Fri. OR Sat. 3/5/20, OR 3/6/20, OR 3/7/20	FBA Middle School Concert Music Performance Assessment. Symphonic and Concert Band at Lincoln Middle School, Time TBA. Formal Uniform. This is a required performance for all Symphonic and Concert Band personnel. Please keep these dates available. We will only perform on one of them.
Tues. 3/10/20	ACMS Honor Band Rehearsal – 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Fort Clarke Middle School
Thurs. 3/12/20	ACMS Honor Band Rehearsal – 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Fort Clarke Middle School
Mon. 3/16/20	ACMS Honor Band Rehearsal - 5:30 - 7:30 PM at Fort Clarke Middle School
Tues. 3/17/20	All Day ACMS Honor Band Rehearsal at Fort Clarke 8:30am to 3:00pm (Lunch provided, School Uniform dress code, wear Fort Clarke Band T-shirt)
Wed. 3/18/20	ACMS Honor Band Elementary Concert 10:00am to 11:00am Phillips Center Skate Station 12:00pm – 2:00pm Final Performance open to the public 7:00pm – 9:00pm Phillips Center
Tues. 4/7/20	Band Parent General Meeting, 7:00 p.m. FCMS Band Room, Nominations of

	New officers (Executive Board meets at 6:00pm)
April 2019 dates TBD	Vidalia Onion Fundraiser - General Band Fundraiser
Tues. 4/28/20	Fort Clarke Spring Concert All Bands @ Buchholz HS Auditorium 7 pm. Symphonic Band Officers and Percussion arrive 5:00pm. Other Symphonic students arrive @ 5:45pm. Concert band 6:00pm, Beginners 6:15pm Formal Uniform See the Uniform Requirements for individual bands.
Thurs., 5/7/20	Band Parent General Meeting, 7z;00 PM Band room: Election of New Officers (Booster Board 6:00 PM)
Tues. 5/19/20	FCMS Band Dessert Reception and Awards Night. 6:30 p.m. Nice attire: Location Grace Methodist Church at Fort Clarke.
Fri 5/29/20	Fat City Farewell- Officers and percussion report early, All details TBA
Monday 6/1/20	End of Year Water Park Trip. All Bands.
Mon, 6/8/2- Fri 6/19/20	Summer Band at the Fort – Details below

SIGN UP EARLY FOR McConn Music's Summer Band At the Fort 2020

Monday, June 8th through Friday, June 19th, 2020. Monday – Friday. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,

Early Registration \$185 for 2 weeks/\$95 for one week. Regular Registration \$210.00/\$110 per week.

Summer Jazz Band 1:00-2:30 p.m. Early Reg. Cost: \$75/\$40 per week. Regular Registration - \$80/\$45 for one week. Registration begins February 2020. Rising 9th – 12th Graders may volunteer to help on space available basis. \$45.00/\$25 per week.

Go to www.summerbandatfortclarke.com to fill out Volunteer Application. Must have your director's recommendation and Signature.

Why Should My Child Take Private Music Lessons?

1 March, 2011 by [admin](#)



by Amanda Proctor

Whether your child is learning a musical instrument to pursue it as a career or for personal fulfillment and recreation, private lessons greatly benefit the new music student. Because I am a clarinet teacher (though I sometimes teach beginning piano, as well), I focus this discussion on the young band student, a child learning a wind instrument such as clarinet, flute, or trumpet. However, the benefits of private lessons apply to any young musician; violinist, vocalist, pianist, anyone.

So, why should we offer our children private lessons if they are already in a band class at school? Learning to play a musical instrument can be more of a daunting task than a child (or parent) may expect. Fingers, tongue, breathing, posture, note reading, and counting all come into play with this foreign object put into a child's hands! I discuss five reasons why it's a benefit to take private lessons.

1. Working with a private teacher can help a student keep up with peers in the group setting. Every child learns at a different pace. Because of the many aspects of performing an instrument, children will progress differently. For instance, a child may have no trouble at all properly placing his/her hands on the instrument and quickly becoming dexterous, but may find it impossible to form the proper embouchure (position of the mouth on the instrument's mouthpiece). There are many subtleties to embouchure formation, and if a student doesn't get help from a private instructor, the wrong embouchure could become a road block to other facets of playing (such as note range) in the near future. Because everyone learns at a different pace, the pressure of learning in a group setting can be very frustrating, which brings me to the second reason why private lessons are beneficial:

2. Private lessons help to minimize frustration. I believe the less frustration the better when it comes to learning; who doesn't? Though frustration can create determination in some people, it can discourage others. It's sad to see a child give up learning an instrument in the early stages when all that was needed was a little personal attention. Every child deserves the opportunity to enjoy and not be frustrated with making music.

3. Private lessons set up the child for success. With a private instructor, a child learns more quickly the fundamentals of playing. A solid foundation is built, and the child can keep learning, playing and succeeding. Succeeding is fun! The young musician builds confidence, and doesn't give up. Furthermore, once the student is strong in instrumental skills, he/she can perhaps focus more on learning ensemble skills and gleaning knowledge from the band director.

4. The child learns how to practice. A young musician needs to learn HOW to practice. I often spend more time with a student on practice skills than anything else in a lesson; and not only with beginners, but advanced students as well. A student spends more time weekly alone in a practice room (or at home) with the instrument than he/she does with a private instructor each week, so that time needs to be well spent. By sending the student home weekly with the proper practice skills, the private instructor can help the student get the most out of practice time alone. Also, the student will not dread practice time, because he/she will have control over it and confidently expect results.

5. It is easier to stay motivated with the help of a private instructor. I find this benefit most applicable to students who have been performing more than a few years. Once out of the beginner stage of playing, a music student may not know what to do next. A private instructor is knowledgeable about different music literature and styles and can help the student discover what new music to learn, what goal to pursue next. The instructor can direct a student to certain recordings, because listening is so vital to becoming a good and motivated performer. Sometimes all a student needs in order to remain stimulated is someone to report to on a regular basis. It is always easier to work for something when you know someone is counting on you and that you're accountable to someone – your teacher.

Private lessons are for anyone, not just music-career bound musicians. A private instructor can maximize a young musician's opportunity for musical success and fun. I look forward to working with some of your young musicians!

Recommended Private Teachers

Flute

*Sophie Wasserman
sophiewass@gmail.com

*Bonny Haugen –
haugen2006@gmail.com

*Beth Vinson – (904)796-0088

Oboe

Leslie Odom – lodom@arts.ufl.edu

Bassoon

Robin Best – (352)665-9259
Rjbest.5@gmail.com

Clarinet

Christina Eckstein – (352)318-1325

Saxophone

*Todd Eckstein – Lincoln Middle School
Band Director (352) 331-4112
Call first before emailing:
ecksteintj@sbac.edu

*Noah Graben – (772)333-5235
noahgraben@gmail.com

David Santiago - 352-226-4873
Email: davsan333@gmail.com

Sherry Broadway – (336) 1928
Cell phone (352) 226-4873

Trumpet

Doug Meyers – Contact Hoggtowne
(352)271-4772

Gary Langford – (352)514-7752

Terry Moo – 352-472-6223

French Horn

Margret Dixon – (205)320-9399

Trombone/Baritone

Zach Sullivan – 352-665-1124
Brian Stevens – 850-212-6925
Marco Thomas – Hm 317-3508,

Tuba -

Cody Ray 352-538-6709

Percussion

Ashton Mason -

Masatoshi Enamoto – 336-6386
cell – 608-6642
www.meonly@hotmail.com

Ricky Santiago – (352)283-1983

Guitar

Patrick McConn - (770)680-9893

Fort Clarke Band Boosters Financial Assistance Application

A request based on financial need is granted to provide assistance with a portion of your student's Fair Share, Uniform, Instrument Maintenance Fee, or Symphonic Band Trip (when applicable). The awarding of Financial Assistance in the past has NO bearing on current consideration. Reasonable effort is made to verify information provided, as well as extenuating circumstances. Documentation of assistance received must be submitted with application (free lunch, etc).

_____ Beginning Band _____ Concert Band _____ Symphonic Band

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City Zip Code

Phone: _____ (mobile or home or work?)

Person Requesting Financial Assistance: _____ Relationship to Student: _____

Do you qualify to receive Free Lunches? YES NO
Do you qualify to receive Reduced Lunches? YES NO

Living Situation

With whom does the child live? _____ Both Parents _____ Mother only _____ Father only
 _____ Grandparent _____ Other (please specify): _____

Who lives in the household? _____ Mother _____ Father _____ Siblings _____ Other: _____

Total living in household: _____

Have you received Financial Assistance from the Fort Clarke Band Boosters before? YES NO
If YES, when? _____

Please explain the circumstances that indicate your need for financial assistance. (example: loss/reduction of income, multiple children participating in band or other fair share supported organizations, etc.)

How much will you be able to contribute towards your child's participation in band? _____

I hereby understand and agree that during the course of considering my financial assistance request, you may inquire about information submitted with regard to this request. I further understand that should my request be granted that my child and I or we as parents will be expected to participate in fundraisers and with the use of our volunteer time to do what is needed in supporting the band in other ways than financially.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Required Student/Parent Information Form

Please print in blue or black ink and PRINT CLEARLY especially Email addresses

Complete and return this form by Friday August 17

Period/Grade: ____/____ Band: (circle all that apply) Symphonic Concert Beginning Jazz

Student Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street City Zip

Instrument in Band: _____

Student Email: _____

Give the name of the Responsible Adult(s) with whom the student lives.

Adult #1: _____ Relationship: _____
First Last (Parent, grandparent, guardian, etc)

Address: _____
If different from above

Employer: _____ Email address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ (mobile or home?)

Secondary Phone: _____ (mobile or home or work?)

Adult #2: _____ Relationship: _____
First Last (Parent, grandparent, guardian, etc)

Address: _____
If different from above

Employer: _____ Email address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ (mobile or home?)

Secondary Phone: _____ (mobile or home or work?)

NOTE: IMPORTANT BAND COMMUNICATION IS SENT VIA E-MAIL FROM Jennifer Paugh - Miller charmsemailer@charmsmusic.com or jennleighbm72@gmail.com
Please add these addresses to your contacts and be sure to read all emails sent from the band director.

YES, I READ THE HANDBOOK!

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO MR. MCCONN NO LATER THAN **AUGUST 23, 2019**.

Keep your Handbook handy to reference throughout the year. Any questions, please ask!

I have received and read the information in the Fort Clarke Band Handbook.

Student Name: _____ Class Period: _____

Student Signature _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date: _____